

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) An alkaline protease, wherein an amino acid residue at (a) position 84, (b) position 104, (c) position 256 or (d) position 369 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding thereto has been deleted or selected from:

at position (a): an arginine residue,

at position (b): a proline residue,

at position (c): an alanine, serine, glutamine, valine, leucine, asparagine, glutamic acid or aspartic acid residue, and

at position (d): an aspartic acid residue

2. (Amended) An alkaline protease, comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or having an amino acid sequence showing at least 60% homology therewith, wherein an amino acid residue at (a) position 84, (b) position 104, (c) position 256 or (d) position 369 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at a position corresponding thereto has been deleted or selected from:

at position (a): an arginine residue,

at position (b): a proline residue,

at position (c): an alanine, serine, glutamine, valine, leucine, asparagine, glutamic acid or aspartic acid residue, and

at position (d): an aspartic acid residue.

3. (Amended) An alkaline protease, wherein an amino acid residue at (e) position 66 or 264, (f) position 57, each of 101 to 106, 136, 193 or 342, (g) position 46 or 205, (h)

position 54, 119, 138, 148 or 195, (i) position 247, (j) position 124, (k) position 107 or (l) position 257 of SEQ ID NO:1, or at a position corresponding thereto has been deleted or selected from:

at position (e): a glutamine, aspartic acid, serine, glutamic acid, alanine, threonine, leucine, methionine, cysteine, valine, glycine or isoleucine residue

at position (f): a lysine, serine, glutamine, phenylalanine, valine, arginine, tyrosine, leucine, isoleucine, threonine, methionine, cysteine, tryptophan, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, histidine, proline or alanine residue,

at position (g): a tyrosine, tryptophan, alanine, asparagine, glutamic acid, threonine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, histidine, serine, lysine, glutamine, methionine or cysteine residue,

at position (h): a tryptophan, phenylalanine, alanine, asparagine, glutamic acid, threonine, valine, histidine, serine, lysine, glutamine, methionine, glycine, aspartic acid, proline, arginine or cysteine residue,

at position (i): a tryptophan, phenylalanine, alanine, asparagine, glutamic acid, threonine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, histidine, serine, glutamine, methionine or cysteine residue,

at position (j): an alanine or lysine residue,

at position (k): a lysine, arginine, alanine or serine residue, and

at position (l): a valine or isoleucine residue.

4. (Amended) An alkaline protease, comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or having an amino acid sequence showing at least 60% homology therewith, wherein an amino acid residue at (e) position 66 or 264, (f) position 57, each of 101 to 106, 136, 193 or 342, (g) position 46 or 205, (h) position 54, 119, 138, 148 or 195, (i)

position 247, (j) position 124, (k) position 107 or (l) position 257 has been deleted or selected from:

at position (e): a glutamine, aspartic acid, serine, glutamic acid, alanine, threonine, leucine, methionine, cysteine, valine, glycine or isoleucine residue

at position (f): a lysine, serine, glutamine, phenylalanine, valine, arginine, tyrosine, leucine, isoleucine, threonine, methionine, cysteine, tryptophan, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, histidine, proline or alanine residue,

at position (g): a tyrosine, tryptophan, alanine, asparagine, glutamic acid, threonine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, histidine, serine, lysine, glutamine, methionine or cysteine residue,

at position (h): a tryptophan, phenylalanine, alanine, asparagine, glutamic acid, threonine, valine, histidine, serine, lysine, glutamine, methionine, glycine, aspartic acid, proline, arginine or cysteine residue,

at position (i): a tryptophan, phenylalanine, alanine, asparagine, glutamic acid, threonine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, histidine, serine, glutamine, methionine or cysteine residue,

at position (j): an alanine or lysine residue,

at position (k): a lysine, arginine, alanine or serine residue, and

at position (l): a valine or isoleucine residue.

5. (Amended) The alkaline protease according to Claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or amino acid sequence showing at least 60% homology therewith is an amino acid sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 7.

6. (Amended) A gene encoding the alkaline protease according to Claim 1.

7. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene according to Claim 6.

8. (Amended) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to Claim 7.

a¹⁰ 9. (Amended) The transformant according to Claim 8, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.

10. (Amended) A detergent [composition] composition, comprising the alkaline protease according to Claim 1.--

Please add the following:

-11. (New) A gene encoding the alkaline protease according to Claim 2.

12. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene according to Claim 11.

13. (New) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to Claim 12.

14. (New) The transformant according to Claim 13, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.

15. (New) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease according to Claim 2.

a¹¹ 16. (New) A gene encoding the alkaline protease according to Claim 3.

17. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene according to Claim 16.

18. (New) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to Claim 17.

19. (Amended) The transformant according to Claim 18, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.

20. (New) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease according to Claim 3.

21. (New) The alkaline protease according to Claim 4, wherein the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or amino acid sequence showing at least 60% homology therewith is an amino acid sequence selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 7.

22. (New) A gene encoding the alkaline protease according to Claim 21.

23. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene according to Claim 22.

24. (New) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to Claim 23.

25. (New) The transformant according to Claim 24, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.

26. (New) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease according to Claim 21.

27. (New) A gene encoding the alkaline protease according to Claim 4.

28. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene according to Claim 27.

29. (New) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to Claim 28.

30. (New) The transformant according to Claim 29, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.

31. (New) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease according to Claim 4.

32. (New) A gene encoding the alkaline protease according to Claim 5.

33. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene according to Claim 32.
34. (New) A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to Claim 33.
35. (New) The transformant according to Claim 34, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.
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cont 36. (New) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease according to Claim 5.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending.

The original Abstract of the Disclosure has been replaced by a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure in order to comply with proper form. No new matter is believed to be introduced by this amendment.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. For example, the units "iL" have been changed to " μ L". No new matter is believed to be introduced by these amendments to the specification.

The claims have been amended in order to place them in proper form and to eliminate multiple dependencies. Further, Claims 11-36 are new. Support for the new claims is found at pages 1-31 of the specification and the original claims. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendment to the claims and the addition of new claims.

Applicants have now submitted a substitute Sequence Listing and a corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing, and an amendment. Contents of the paper copy of the substitute Sequence Listing and the computer-readable Sequence Listing are identical.